REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application. Claims 1-32 are pending. Claims 1-32 have been cancelled. Claims 33-76 have been added. Therefore, claims 33-76 are now presented for examination.

Claim 25 – The Office Action indicates that claim 25 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 § (a). However, the claim has also been found to contain allowable subject matter. Because the claim is objected to on the Office Action Summary and because such claim contains similar subject matter to allowable claim 12, it is assumed herein that claim 25 has not been rejected.

Amendments to the claims – To simplify the examination of the claims, the existing claims have been cancelled without prejudice and new claims have been added.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Meandzija

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 6-10, 14-16, 21-23, 27-29, 31, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S Patent 6,404,743 of Meandzija ("Meandzija").

Claim 33, as added herein, is as follows:

1.   A method comprising:

transmitting a request from a first network element to a second network element to monitor at least one object on the second network element;

receiving the request at the second network element;

logging information about the at least one object by the second network element in response to a change in value of the object;

transmitting an indication from the second network element to the first network element of the change in value of the at least one object; and

reading by the first element of the information logged on the second network element in response to the transmitted indication.

It is submitted that Meandzija does not contain the elements of claim 33. Among other differences, Meandzija does not provide for reading by a first element of information logged on a second network element in response to a transmitted indication.

In the conventional use of SNMP trap commands, an agent may transmit a trap command when one or more user defined object values change. In SNMP trap-directed polling, information regarding a change in the network element is included in the trap packet sent to a network management station. Network management stations poll network elements to status and configuration of managed objects, an inefficient process taking network time. Meandzija regards a modified SNMP management system. However, Meandzija does not modify the polling function and does not provide for reading of logged information in response to an indication of a change in value.

Meandzija describes a "logs module", as shown in Figure 6 of Meandzija. The logs module then controls the type of log tables an agent is maintaining. Meandzija indicates that a logs group 660 defines three logs, an alarm log 670, a state change log 680, and an object value change log 690. Meandzija indicate the following regarding the use of such logs:

Information stored in the logs group is stored first at the agents, and then read from time to time by the management agent.

(Meandzija, col. 15, lines 16-18) Thus, in addition to any other differences, Meandzija continues to operate using a polling mechanism, in which values are periodically polled.

The use of such system continues the inefficiency provided in SNMP processes. For this reason, Meandzija does not anticipate claim 33.

It is submitted that the above argument also applies to independent claim 45, 57, and 60. Claims 34-44, 46-56, 58, 59, and 61-64 are allowable as being dependent on the allowable base claims.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Meandzija in view of Schlender et al.

The Examiner rejected claims 2-4, 11, 13, 17, 18, 24, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meandzija in view of U.S Patent 6,182,157 of Schlener ("Schlener"). (It is assumed that claim 25 has been found to contain allowable subject matter.)

The rejected claims have been cancelled. For the new claims, it is submitted that Schlener does not teach or suggest the elements of the claim missing from Meandzija and thus does not add relevant matter to this issue.

Schlener describes a modified SNMP trap mechanism. In this mechanism, Schlener does not provide for reading by a first element of information logged on a second network element in response to a transmitted indication. Schlener provides for changes in the definition of traps, but does not modify the access to data. For example:

> Upon receipt of the trap, the management station 10 interprets the severity level of the trap and responds appropriately. In contrast, traps of the prior art lacked any indication of degree or level of severity.

(Schlener, col. 7, lines 48-50; see also col.8, lines 16-18) Schlener simply indicates that the management station will respond appropriately. There is no teaching or suggestion that the method of addressing the trap will include the elements of claim 33.

Allowable Subject Matter

As indicated before, the Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the Examiner's careful search and the finding of allowable subject matter in claims 5, 12, 19, 20, 25, and 26. The subject matter of such claims, with the incorporation of the independent and any intervening claims are presented herein as independent claims 60, 65, 69, 73, and 75, and dependent claim 70. The remaining dependent claims are allowable as being dependent on the allowable base claims

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

The Applicant respectfully petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 09-0457 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 for such an extension.
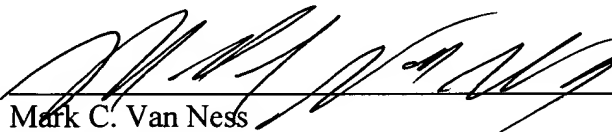
Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 9/16/04

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